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REDLINE VERSION OF CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENTS

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

2. (Amended) A method for preparing porous microcrystalline cellulose granules comprising the following steps:
- (a) granulating microcrystalline cellulose with a granulating fluid comprising water and a water-miscible, volatile, polar organic solvent to provide a granulated microcrystalline cellulose;
  - (b) drying the granulated microcrystalline cellulose at a controlled rate for a time sufficient to remove at least substantially all of the polar organic solvent from the granulated microcrystalline cellulose without removing at least a substantial portion of the water from the granulated microcrystalline cellulose, and without extruding or spheronizing the granulated microcrystalline cellulose from granulation step (a); and
  - (c) subsequent to step (b), removing at least a substantial portion of the water from the granulated microcrystalline cellulose.
14. Porous, granulated ~~Granulated~~ microcrystalline cellulose made by the process of claim 1 having a loose bulk density of from about 0.2 g/cc to about 0.4 g/cc, and a mean particle size of from about 250 microns to about 1500 microns.
15. Porous, granulated ~~Granulated~~ microcrystalline cellulose made by the process of claim 7 having a loose bulk density of from about 0.2 g/cc to about 0.4 g/cc, and a mean particle size of from about 250 microns to about 1500 microns.
16. Porous microcrystalline ~~Microcrystalline~~ cellulose granules having an irregular shape, a loose bulk density of from about 0.2 g/cc to about 0.4 g/cc, and a mean particle size of from about ~~200~~ 250 microns to about 1500 microns.